

TILLANDSIA VALENZUELANA A. RICH. IN THE BAHAMAS

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During the past three years we have been teaching a course on the Tropical Flora of the Bahamas at the Forfar Field Station just south of Stafford Creek on North Andros Island. To support the teaching of the local flora a selected collection of some 260 specimens was made during May and June of 1977 and 1979. Several interesting discoveries have been made in the course of our collecting on Andros Island one of which is reported here.

Tillandsia valenzuelana A. Rich. was first reported from the Bahamas by Britton and Millspaugh in The Bahama Flora. They indicated that the plant occurred on trees in coppices in the Marsh Harbor region of Abaco. Since that time there has been an additional report of this species from Grand Bahama.

Although the plant is considered rare in the Bahamas we found several individuals of this species growing along a storm ridge adjacent to a bail road 2 miles west of Stafford Creek settlement. We did not note the tree species with which these plants were associated. Our collection was verified by Donovan S. Correll and is an unnumbered specimen collected by C. Werth and V. Baird in May 1977. The specimen bears a Miami University (MU) accession number 125883.

This interesting extension of the range of this species in the Bahamas suggests the need for much more extensive field studies of the flora of the Bahamas. As the largest of the islands in the Bahaman Archipelago, Andros Island is still relatively poorly known floristically. The range extension of other species might be anticipated as the isolated coppices of this island become better known.